

## REMARKS

Claim 46 is pending in this application after the cancellation of claims 7, 41-45, and 47-64. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims through a continuation application. Claim 46 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 47 which the Examiner has recognized as including patentable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to claim 46.

Applicants note that claim 46, as originally filed, recited a surface layer and claim 47 further limited the surface layer to include biotin. In the Office action dated January 6, 2005 the Examiner indicated that claim 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. A subsequent amendment to claim 46 changed "layer" to "coating" but did not result in claim 46 being allowed. In rewriting claim 47 to place it in independent form, Applicants have reverted to the claim language as it stood at the time the Examiner indicated that claim 47 would be allowable. Accordingly, "coating" has been replaced by "layer." Applicants believe that the amendment from "layer" to "coating" and back to "layer" should not give rise to an estoppel with respect to any later determination of a range of equivalents to the term "layer" under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

**CONCLUSION**

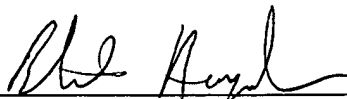
Pending claim 46 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner have questions, the Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Gang Gu et al.

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